

REMARKS

The present communication responds to the non-final Office action of May 12, 2008 in which the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4-8. Claims 2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,976,701 (“Ejlensen et al.”).

Previously withdrawn claims 9-26 have been cancelled. Claim 4 has been amended. No new subject matter has been added.

The claim rejections are traversed in view of the amendments and for at least the reasons articulated below.

Reconsideration is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ejlensen et al.

The rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Amended claim 4 now recites, “arranged at least,” instead of “arranged least.”

Amended claim 4 is directed to a cannula system including a cannula support including a thread turning in a first direction and another thread turning in a second, generally opposite direction, the cannula support having an outer side and an inside, said threads arranged at least on the outer side of the cannula support, and a protective cap for covering a point of a needle having a thread engageable with said thread turning in said second generally opposite direction.

Ejlensen et al. discloses an injection device with a double-ended needle in a needle holder. There are first cooperative threads on a cap and the jacket from screwing and unscrewing the cap onto the jacket. There are also second cooperative threads on the needle holder and one of the cap and cartridge. (*Ejlensen et al., Abstract*).

The Examiner asserts that Ejlersen et al. discloses “a cannula system comprising a cannula support having a thread turning in a first direction (17) and another thread turning in a second opposite direction (24)” This is a mischaracterization of Ejlersen et al. Instead, Ejlersen et al. discloses a needle holder at 28 with a rear shell-shaped part with right-handed threads 30 that are rotatable with the threads 17 of the plastics sleeve at 14. (*Ejlersen et al., col. 2, lines 32-35*). However, reference numeral 24 of Ejlersen et al. is a front intermediate member part of a sleeve-shaped intermediate member, and is not another thread on the needle holder at 28. As stated by Ejlersen et al.:

The cartridge 11, 14, 15 is secured in the injection apparatus by means of a sleeve-shaped intermediate member consisting of a rear part 23 formed with internal right-handed threads 22 and screwed on the jacket 10, and of a front part 24 having a slightly smaller diameter and external left-handed threads 25 on which a cap at 26 is threaded. Between the two parts 23 and 24, the intermediate member has an internal ring-shaped shoulder face which engages the shoulder 19 of the plastics sleeve at 14. (*Ejlersen et al., col. 2, lines 13-22*).

Ejlersen et al. does not disclose the invention of amended claim 4. Amended claim 4 recites that the threads (a thread turning in a first direction and another thread turning in a second, generally opposite direction) are arranged at least on the outer side of the cannula support. Ejlersen et al. does not disclose more than one thread on the needle holder at 28.

Furthermore, Ejlersen et al. does not disclose “a protective cap for covering a point of a needle having a thread engageable with said thread turning in said generally opposite direction.” The “thread turning in said generally opposite direction” of amended claim 4 is on the cannula support. Instead, Ejlersen et al. discloses that the cap 26 is threaded onto the external left-handed threads 25 of a front part 24 of a sleeve-shaped intermediate part, which is a different element to the needle holder at 28. (*See also, Ejlersen et al. FIG. 1*).

Accordingly, Ejlersen et al. does not disclose all elements of amended claim 4.

Claims 2 and 5-8 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 4 and are patentable over Ejlersen et al. for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended claim 4.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief which may be required, or credit any overpayment and notify us of same, to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

The application now stands in allowable form, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

Date: August 12, 2008

By: David E. Bruhn
David E. Bruhn, Reg. No. 36,762
(612) 340-6317